

crucifix on All Souls³ Day at the very hour
when the last
member of the family departed this life ; and
some people,
just as in Tonquin, refrained from sweeping
the house that
day lest they should thereby disturb the
ghostly visitors.¹

Feast of In Bruges, Dinant, and other
towns of Belgium holy
AH Souls candles burn all night in the
houses on the Eve of All

mBelgmm. ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ midnJglltj Qr even
tffl morning.

People, too, often set lighted candles on
the graves. At
Scherpenheuvel the houses are
illuminated, and the people
walk in procession carrying lighted
candles in their hands.
A very common custom in Belgium is to
eat " soul-cakes"
or " soul-bread " on the eve or the day
of All Souls. The
eating of them is believed to benefit the
dead in some way.
Perhaps originally, as among the
Esquimaux of Alaska to
this day,² the ghosts were thought to
enter into the bodies
of their relatives and so to share the
victuals which the
survivors consumed. Similarly at festivals
in honour of the
dead in Northern India it is customary
to feed Brahmans,
and the food which these holy men
partake of is believed
to pass to the deceased and to refresh
their languid spirits/⁵
The same idea of eating and drinking by
proxy may perhaps
partly explain many other funeral feasts.
Be that as it may,
at Dixmude and elsewhere in Belgium
they say that you
deliver a soul from Purgatory for every
cake you eat. At
Antwerp they give a local colour to the
soul-cakes by baking
them with plenty of saffron, the deep
yellow tinge being sug-
gestive of the flames of Purgatory.
People in Antwerp at
the same season are careful not to slam

doors or windows
 for fear of hurting the ghosts.⁴
 Feast of In Lechrain, a district of
 Southern Bavaria which
 Lech?^n.ⁱⁿ extends along the valley of the
 Lech from its source to
 near the point where the river flows into the
 Danube, the
 two festivals of All Saints and All
 Souls_s on the first

¹ J. L. M. Nogues, *Les mcettrs* 125.
d'an.tr&fois en Saintonge et en Annis 2 \b_{ove} D eo
 (Saintes, 1891), p. 76. As to the | r | -n
 Ar •
 observance of All Souls' Day in other ^' Crooke, *1 he Natives*
of Nor-
 parts of France see A. Meyrac, *Tradi- thern Indm* (London >
 *9°7), P- 219.
tionS) coutumes, Ugendes et conies des ⁴ Reinsberg-
 Diiringsfeld, *Caltn drier*
Ardennes (Charleville, 1890), pp. 22- Beige (Brussels,
 1861-1862), ii. 236-
 24; Ch. Beauquier, *Les mo is en240; id.,*
Dasfestliche Jahr (Leipsic,
Franche-Comtt (Paris, 1900), pp. 123- 1863), pp. 229 sq.